

DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education
The Cabinet Room

June 7, 2012
5:15 P.M.

Members Present: Michael Casson, Joanne Christian, Samtra Devard, Stephanie DeWitt, Marilyn Dollard, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, Chris Kenton, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Whitney Price, Shelley Rouser, and Kathleen Thomas.

Members Absent: Wendy Murray and Jacqueline Wisnauskas.

Others Present: Charlie Michels; PSB Executive Director, Paula Fontello; Deputy Attorney General, Marian Wolak; DDOE Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development, Eric Niebrzydowski; RTTT Deputy Officer TLEU, Michelle Kriss; Secretary to PSB, Phil Gullion; Pearson, Les McCallum; Pearson, and Deb Stevens; DSEA.

I. Opening

Call to Order: Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 5:25 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Ms. Lewandowski and seconded by Ms. Gordon to approve the June 7, 2012 Agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of April 3, 2012: A motion was made by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Ms. Lewandowski to approve the PSB Minutes of April 3, 2012. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of May 3, 2012: A motion was made by Dr. Rouser and seconded by Ms. Lewandowski to approve the PSB Minutes of May 3, 2012. The motion carried.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels indicated that those PSB Members with terms expiring at the end of June have all agreed to serve an additional term! He was informed by the Director of the Delaware Boards of Commissions that the confirmations for extending Member terms would happen in January 2013 upon the opening of the

next General Assembly. Ms. Thomas and Mr. Michels shared their appreciation for Members willing to continue serving on the PSB.

- Mr. Michels travelled back and forth to Legislative Hall over the past few weeks meeting with Representative Schooley, House Bill 107's House of Representative sponsor. Rep. Schooley provided Mr. Michels a list of critical Representatives to talk to about HB107 regarding the nature of the Bill and why the PSB feels it is important, and supporting organizations and agencies. Mr. Michels told the Board he accomplished this task. He said Rep. Schooley is planning to go through the necessary process to place HB107 on next Tuesday's House Agenda for approval. Rep. Schooley has asked Mr. Michels to be present to provide expert testimony. Mr. Michels said if voted affirmatively, HB 107 would move from the floor of the House to the Senate. He has been staying in touch with Senator Simpson; the Bill's Senate sponsor.
- Mr. Michels said he attended the Senate Confirmation Hearing for the nominated Secretary of Education, Mark Murphy. Secretary Murphy was then confirmed by the Senate and subsequently took the Oath of Office, as provided by Governor Markell, at the DOE on June 1, 2012.
- Mr. Michels referred the PSB Members to the May 31, 2012 Quarterly Report of the Delaware Leadership Project (DLP) in their folders. He asked Eric Niebrzydowski, RTTT Deputy Officer TLEU to give a brief overview. Mr. Niebrzydowski said that although the DLP is recently under his management, he has been involved in this project from day one. He summarized the Report and discussed the results of Cohort 1's 2011-2012 residency year, the End-of-Year Evaluations, and the status of Placements/Hiring. Mr. Niebrzydowski noted that the first cohort of the DLP is scheduled to graduate on June 12, 2012. Mr. Niebrzydowski also discussed the Selection of Cohort 2, upcoming work and events. Mr. Niebrzydowski then answered questions and concerns posed by the PSB.
- Mr. Michels said he had an initial conversation with DDOE staff and DSEA personnel about the recent approval of the Delaware Professional Development Standards relative to impact on PSB and DDOE work. The Department will need to consider impacts on Professional Development funding through the Consolidated Application Grant. The workgroup also had a conversation about how the amended Delaware Professional Development Standards might impact the work of the PSB as the PSB continues to look at Continuing License requirements and professional development options for licensure renewal.
- Mr. Michels met with some members of the Delaware Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (DACTE) at a venue in Dover. He asked those present to think about how the relatively new Praxis II Test for Elementary Education, which is a multiple subject test where each section is scored individually, could impact their programs. Mr. Michels said that he will approach the PSB and the State Board of Education for possible intention to adopt the test. A potential advantage of this test is that it would require content knowledge in each core area, as opposed a composite type score, as is the case in the currently approved elementary education test. This test would require cut scores set for math,

science, ELA and social studies. Mr. Michels hopes to garner feedback from Association members in the fall when the group re-convenes.

- Mr. Michels met with the Dr. Teri Quinn-Gray, President of the State Board of Education, Dr. Ross Armbricht, the Executive Director of the Delaware Foundation of Science and Math Education, and Ms. Donna Johnson, Executive Director of the State Board of Education. Mr. Michels said that Dr. Gray and Dr. Armbricht had concerns regarding elementary student math scores and how Delaware can ensure that teachers coming out of Elementary Teacher Preparation Programs will have the knowledge, skills, and content knowledge to teach the students at these young ages. Mr. Michels spoke of the Praxis II Multi-Subject test now available that to a degree, would afford a measure of confidence in candidates who successfully complete each sub-test, per set cut scores. Mr. Michels promised to do additional research and to keep the PSB abreast of progress.
- Mr. Michels met with the Delaware Association of School Personnel Directors on May 17th at Polytech High School and provided his monthly update of PSB initiatives.
- Mr. Michels indicated he is still working on Regulation ***1573 Teacher of Students with Autism or Severe Disabilities***. He has sent out some questions and plans on having a meeting with Ms. Fontello, the State Board of Education's Deputy Attorney General, and MaryAnn Mieczkowski, DDOE Director of Exceptional Children Resources to discuss for whom this regulation is targeting, and which teachers this certification should be required for. Questions remain regarding the process for approving a Delaware Autism Program school, and if these are the programs under which ***1573*** would be required of educators. More research and inquiry is necessary and Mr. Michels said he would continue his work in this critical area.
- Mr. Michels announced that this might be the last PSB meeting for Ms. Joanne Christian as she is not seeking an additional term with the Appoquinimink School Board. Mr. Michels presented Ms. Christian with a Certificate of Appreciation and the coveted PSB's engraved rosewood pen and pencil set for her valuable services and commitment to the Professional Standards Board.

IV. **DOE Report**

Ms. Thomas introduced Dr. Marian Wolak, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development for DDOE's Teaching and Learning Branch. Dr. Wolak distributed handouts to the PSB and gave a brief overview of the Department's role in facilitating the Common Core Standards within Delaware's educational community. She discussed the key instructional shifts of the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics and explained that part of the process is to ensure that text books at each grade level are aligned to the Standards. Dr. Wolak also shared DOE's 2012 Common Core Standards High Quality Professional Development Schedule and informed the PSB to visit the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium website to see the connections with Delaware. <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>

V. **Action Items**

A. 1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards

Mr. Michels said this regulation was published in the Delaware Register of Regulations on May 1, 2012 and is before the PSB for Final Approval. He has received no written comments to date and there were no further questions or concerns expressed by the State Board of Education. A motion was made by Ms. DeWitt and seconded by Ms. Devard to approve *1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards* for Final Approval. The motion carried.

B. 2012 - 2013 PSB Meeting Schedule

Mr. Michels spoke of the necessity in June when the PSB approves their meeting schedule for the upcoming year. Mr. Michels had developed a draft of the 2012-2013 PSB meeting schedule based on the first Thursday of the month and times to reflect the past year's schedule. After some discussion, 2 dates were changed to eliminate holidays and conflicts: July 5th was replaced with July 10, 2012 and April 4, 2013 was replaced with April 11th. After reaching a general consensus, Ms. Thomas asked for a motion to approve the *2012 – 2013 PSB Meeting Schedule*. A motion was made by Ms. Dollard and seconded by Dr. Greaves to approve the **2012 – 2013 PSB Meeting Schedule** as amended. The motion carried. Mr. Michels asked the Members to notify him if the September 6th date conflicted with school Open Houses. Mr. Michels will post the Calendar on the PSB website and forward it to the Members.

VI. Discussion

A. Pearson National Evaluation Series

Mr. Michels introduced Les McCallum, Pearson's March 1st PSB meeting presenter, and Phil Gullion, a psychometrician, from the Pearson Evaluation Group. Pearson is a company that provides tests of general knowledge and content knowledge for educator licensure and certification. Mr. Michels informed the Board that they were not expected to make any decisions following the presentation. Mr. McCallum and Mr. Gullion distributed handouts and discussed Pearson's written responses to each of the 10 questions previously submitted by Mr. Michels. The Pearson representatives discussed their National Evaluation Series (NES), available testing options and noted that that Pearson currently has 34 tests. It was explained that all of their tests are computer-based (CBT) and are available on an ongoing basis. Mr. McCallum informed the Board that he would provide testimonials to the PSB about the NES tests and asked the Board to visit the website: www.nestest.com. Following the Board's questions and subsequent answers, Mr. McCallum and Mr. Gullion thanked the Board for their time and said Pearson looks forward to the opportunity to be Delaware's provider of content knowledge tests. Mr. Michels asked the Board to provide him with any feedback after they have considered the information shared tonight.

B. 1570 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

Mr. Michels said this regulation was published on June 1, 2012 in the Delaware Register of Regulations. The Registrar reformatted the regulation without any substantive changes. Mr. Michels referred the Members to their folders to review a copy of the reformatted Regulation. The Board shared no further comments or concerns. Mr. Michels had not received any written comments to date.

C. Administrative Standard Certificates

Mr. Michels said he has been working on the Administrative Standard Certificate 'bundle' of 5 regulations for well over a year. Before he brings the bundle before the PSB's Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee, he would like the Board to share their thoughts on the apparent direction of the proposed educational and experience amendments in 1591-1594 and the new 1595 regulation. The Board noted their approval of Mr. Michels' work. Ms. Fontello noted that the Department of Education made a commitment in the Race To The Top Application to seek 'alternative paths to certification' for administrators, so it is incumbent upon the PSB to move forward in this area or the Department may seek a way to independently resolve the RTTT pledge. After some discussion, Mr. Michels said he will schedule conversations with necessary groups and keep the movement positive.

VII. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria

The Committee had not met.

B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation

The Committee had not met.

VIII. Other

None.

IX. Public Comment

None.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Devard and was seconded by Mr. Kenton to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.